

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

First, I should like to thank all those members who sent good wishes for a speedy recovery. Actually, my recovery was "speedier" than I ever imagined it would be and I was apparently the star performer in the hospital, using a walker on the third day and in the physiotherapy room on the fourth! Upon returning home, with a stick to help me get around, I found I could go up and down stairs with relative ease and was back at the computer much sooner than I anticipated. After five weeks of physiotherapy at the hospital with visits twice a week, they pronounced me ready to challenge the world! I think I was very lucky, aided by the fact that I am not very heavy and have always been very active, whereas some of the other patients at the clinic were having problems related to weight or lack of any regular exercise. All that being said, I should not care to go through it again, but I wonder if the metal bits will set off the alarms at airport security!

We have some very good news relating to the bird new issues column, as Glenn Mertz has agreed to take it on and his first column, a very lengthy one of some 20 odd pages is included in this issue. Our thanks to Glenn for taking on this column for all the bird enthusiasts. Unfortunately, Roy Rings has informed us that he has just had his 90th birthday and feels he cannot do the Herpetology and Marine Invertebrate columns any more, so once again we are searching for someone to take on at least one of these columns, if not both. I also have an apology for Roy in that I messed up his piece titled "Chameleons or Anoles?". I reformatted the pages for a 0.75 inch vertical margin and lost track of the sense of the text. Sorry about that Roy.

While I was going through Chuck Braun's "New Birds" column, I came across a bird from Africa with the popular name "Bare-faced Go-away-bird", which made me wonder how a name like that could have arisen. It reminded me of the film "The Gods Must be Crazy", in which one of the characters refers to the "Wait-a-bit" bush. When asked what he means, the response is "wait a bit and you will find out!" In early Victorian days in England, collecting was all the rage and those who collected moths came up with some wonderful names such as "The Alder Kitten" and "The Light Feathered Rustic", but my favourite was "The Setaceous Hebrew Character".

The festive season is fast approaching and we are awash in Christmas cards and wrappings. I should like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a happy and healthy Christmas and I look forward to seeing some of you in Dallas in June.

Until next time - Alan J. Hanks

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